





# THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.  
WILMINGTON, N. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1861.

**COUNTY COURT.**—We have, somehow, so far forgotten to notice the fact that the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for this County is in session this week in the Court House, James T. Miller, Esq., chairman, presiding.

**The Northern Congress.**

The proceedings in the Congress at Washington are a little amusing, but in nothing more so than in the applications for seats in that body by persons claiming to represent districts in Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and other Southern States. For instance, on the first day, we find that Mr. Hickman, of Pennsylvania, presented the certificate of the Provisional Government of North Carolina, dated Hatteras, to the election of C. H. Foster, who claims to be the regularly chosen member from the first district of this State. "His Excellency," the Reverend Marble Nash Taylor, certifying to the election of the honorable C. H. Foster!

We notice the passage of a joint resolution tendering the thanks of Congress to Captain Wilkes for his arrest of the "traitors" Mason and Sillid.

A resolution has been introduced to put John M. Mason, of Virginia, and John Sillid, of Louisiana, in the same kind of cells that Coles. Corcoran and Wood are confined in.

A resolution of thanks to Commodore Dupont and the officers and men of his expedition, was introduced, but laid over for the present.

Sundry resolutions of expulsion were passed, both in the House and in the Senate.

Mr. Cox, of Ohio, has introduced a resolution requesting the President to inaugurate systematic measures for the exchange of prisoners in the present war.

**Shipping at Harbors.**

Mr. Lincoln's Secretary of the Navy states that sundry of the smaller liners into Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds, in this State, have been closed up or obstructed by sinking vessels, loaded with stone, in their channels. Other vessels are getting ready to sink obstructions in the neighborhood of Charleston and Savannah.

For a time this sort of thing may have some little effect, but with the peculiar shifting sand shoals which form the bars to our Southern harbors, the attempt to effect anything permanent must wholly fail. These sands shift of themselves constantly, and the current of water blocked out of one channel by some obstruction placed there will pretty certainly cut another one for itself very soon, especially where there is such a heavy tide as there is at the mouth of the Savannah River. There is not granite enough in Quincy, nor old whalers enough in Mystic, New Bedford, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard to permanently effect anything in the way of blocking a harbor with a sandy bottom and a tidal rise of seven feet.

**RECRUITS WANTED.**—It will be seen from a notice in this paper, that Capt. Bunting wants fifteen able-bodied men in his Artillery Company. Capt. Bunting's company has been recruited in this town and county for 12 months service, about seven months more to serve. It is composed of good and true men—many of whom have families here, all we think have relatives. Capt. B. deserves the thanks of this community for his untiring exertions in raising his company. We know he has been at great trouble and expense in doing so, and we are confident that no man willing to enter the service could find a better company or serve under a better, braver or kinder commander than Captain Bunting.

A GENTLEMAN has just shown us an open letter from New York which came through via Fortress Monroe and Norfolk. Of course it contains little or no news, nothing indeed political, and not much of any kind save information in regard to the health of sundry patriots.

Spirits Turpentine is quoted at \$1 35 a \$1 50.—Common Rosin, \$5 75; Pale \$8. Tar \$8. There is no Crude turpentine in New York.

The people in New York appear to think that the people here must be very bad off for something to eat, at least the writer bewails our hard fate in that respect.

**SOMEWHAT SCARED.**—Yesterday forenoon, while sitting with closed doors, reading Lincoln's message as a punishment for our sins, Adam Empe, Esq., who occupies an office in our building, came up stairs and into our room in hot haste to inform us that the house must be on fire, for that all down stairs was full of smoke. How we got down is not known to us, but we did get down pretty quick, sure enough, and found a dense smoke billowing out of the basement and out of Mr. Empe's office. A friend who was with us started to the pump, and we to the basement, where we supposed the fire must be, and there we found it—in a stove—which Mr. Heinsberger, Bookbinder, had started with lightwood. For some reason, perhaps because the stove-pipe had been croaking its elbow too much, the whole volume of black smoke from the fat lightwood poured into the room, not half a pint of it going up the chimney.

For a minute and a half we thought it was all up with the Journal office, and we must confess that we did not derive all the consolation that we might have done from the reflection that it was about to end in a blaze of glory, and be more brilliant at the close than at any period of its previous existence. We only thought about the blaze, and wholly forgot the glory. We still live.—Daily Journal, 9th inst.

**Salt Commissioner.**

Contrary to our supposition, we see that the Convention proceeded on Wednesday last to elect a Salt Commissioner to act under the provisions of the ordinance passed on Monday.

Dr. John M. Worth, of Randolph, was chosen on the second ballot, having received 53 out of 91 votes cast. Dr. Worth, and Philomen B. Hawkins, Esq., of Franklin county, appear to have been the only prominent candidates. In fact, the very brief notice from Monday to Wednesday, with the enormous bond of one hundred thousand dollars, prevented the running of any large number of candidates.

Of the gentleman elected we know nothing personally. He is spoken of as an energetic and competent business man, of strict integrity, of his peculiar fitness for this business we know nothing. We had hoped that some person on the seaboard, having some practical experience in salt-boiling, would have been chosen. But we must trust and believe that the selection made will prove to be judicious. Were we inclined to imitate the example of some other papers we might say that Dr. Worth was chosen by the Convention because he had not been a Secessionist, and all that, and it might be so, but then it would have nothing to do with the matter in hand. We only wish the commissioner elect a successful career of duty, pleasant to himself and profitable to the State.—Daily Journal, 9th inst.

**HUTTON AND FREIGHT'S** Southern Monthly, for December, is on our table from Mr. Whitaker, who is agent for this State. It is published by Hutton and Freight, Memphis, at \$3.00 a year in advance. The table of contents of the present number gives promise of interesting reading matter.

**THE NEW BATTLE-FLAG** recently distributed to the regiments at Manassas, has for a device the "Southern Cross" the Stars representing the States of the Confederacy being arranged in the form of that brilliant constellation. It is strikingly unlike the Stars and Stripes, and can hardly be confounded with any other flag.

The New York Herald estimates the number of Confederate troops in the field at 360,000 men.

## The Reports

The main points of Mr. Cameron's report from the Federal War Department are already familiar to our readers. Mr. Cameron goes for confiscating property in negroes as only property. He had gone farther, but Lincoln shrank from backing his tactical Secretary.

He (Cameron) goes for cutting up the Old Dominion like a bankrupt's farm, giving a slice to Maryland, a slice to Delaware, and erecting another slice, composed of the meanest and most abjectly pro-secessionist, into a State by itself and calling it "Old Virginia." It does seem to us that the bones of Washington would turn in their coffin, were one spark of the hero's soul left to hover near Mount Vernon, or watch over his mortal remains. The land of Washington—the home of Jefferson—the birth-place of Patrick Henry to be no more "Virginia," but simply an appanage of Maryland—a mere precinct, so to speak, of a central despotism, dominated by such men as Abraham Lincoln and Simon Cameron!

Mr. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy, estimates the amount of money required for the naval service for the fiscal year commencing July 1st, 1862, at \$44,625,665 02.

The Secretary makes a statement of the condition of the navy on the 4th of March last, from which it appears there was a total of forty-two vessels, carrying five hundred and fifty-five guns and about seven thousand six hundred men. When the vessels now building and purchased, of every class, are armed, equipped and ready for service, the condition of the navy will be as follows: Of the old navy—6 ships-of-line, 7 frigates, 11 sloops, 2 brigs, 3 store-ships, 6 receiving ships, 46, 6 screw frigates, 5 first-class screw sloops, 4 first-class side-wheel steam sloops, 8 second-class screw sloops, 3 third-class screw sloops, 4 third-class side-wheel steamers, 2 steam tenders.

Of purchased vessels: 36 side-wheel steamers, 43 screw steamers, 13 ships, 24 schooners, 18 barges, 2 brigs. Of vessels under construction: 14 screw sloops, 18 gunboats, 12 side-wheel steamers, 3 iron-clad sloops—making a total of 264 vessels, 2,567 guns, and 218,016 tons. The aggregate number of men on active service on the 4th of March last was 7,600. The number is now not less than 22,000.

In reply to the naval commanders in regard to the treatment of fugitive slaves, the Secretary instructed them that if they should be handed over to the custody of the government; but if, on the contrary, they were free from any voluntary participation in the rebellion and sought the shelter and protection of our flag, then they should be cared for and employed in some useful manner, and might be enlisted to serve on our public vessels or in our navy, receiving wages for their labor. If such employment could not be furnished to all by the navy, they might be referred to the army, and if no employment could be found for them in the public service, they should be allowed to proceed freely and peacefully without restraint to seek a livelihood in any lawful portion of the country.

Mr. Secretary Welles endorses fully the action of Captain Wilkes in taking Messrs. Mason and Sillid from on board the British steamer Trent. He says:

"The prompt and decisive action of Captain Wilkes merited and received the emphatic approval of the department, and if a generous forbearance was exhibited by him in not capturing the vessel which had these rebel enemies on board, it was in view of the special circumstances, and of patriotic motives, he excused; but it must by no means be permitted to constitute a precedent hereafter for the capture of any vessel of neutral character, or the carrying there of foreign vessels engaged in commerce or the carrying trade."

This makes it a governmental question—one to which Mr. Lincoln is committed, for he it understood, the idea of a responsible cabinet standing between an irresponsible executive and the consequences of his acts is unknown to the theory of republican government on this continent. Mr. Welles, in law, is simply one of Mr. Lincoln's confidential clerks. He has no constitutional status or responsibility independent of his chief. It is then, a question whether, if England stands upon her dignity, Mr. Lincoln's government will fight or back out. It cannot now disavow the act of Captain Wilkes. It cannot now ensure that officer. His act is now the act of the United States government.

Of course Mr. Seward knows all this, and, in fact, we think he anticipates its consequences. Mr. Lincoln may talk and Mr. Cameron may bluster, but they all know and feel that they cannot conquer the South. As Mr. Russell has said, they cannot go out of the war in a "moral Bull Run"; but they do want somebody to hold them—they want to have the chance of saying that they do not yield to rebels, but are compelled to succumb to an irresistible pressure from without. A fuss with England, and, as a consequence, with France, would give a sufficient excuse even to Imperial Rome herself in her palmiest days, to back out without accusation of cowardice. May it not be possible that Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Seward both seek some such excuse? May it not be that this very thing has been sought for the purpose of creating this very excuse.

Without claiming any peculiar credit for prescience, or pleading guilty to any great stubbornness or pride of opinion, we yet feel justified in reiterating the expression of our opinion, made three months ago, that the back of this war will be broken by June next, and its legal existence even, cannot be protracted beyond the winter of 1862. No matter what the fuss may be on the surface, this we think will be the fact.—It should be remembered that the bloodiest, most glorious and most decisive fight of the last war with England—that of New Orleans, was fought after peace had been made. Our present war may present the same phenomenon, or it may not. One thing is certain, and it is this, that no matter what may appear to be the circumstances when peace is made—no matter what amount of kind offices may be proffered by European nations, the basis upon which the South must stand in the negotiation must be one erected and maintained by herself, and upheld by her own might. Her own sword must vindicate her own rights, and the more hard hitting and the less loud talking the better, and the sooner the trouble will be over.

**How is it?—Who does it?**

A friend who had, under peculiar circumstances, been at the North, and had worked his way home—in plain terms, Mr. Sprunt, of this place, informed us yesterday that when in Baltimore, he of course saw all the leading Northern papers, and found in them long extracts from the editorial columns of Southern papers, mentioning among those he remembered particularly the Memphis Appeal, the New Orleans Picayune, or Delta, we forget which, the Richmond Examiner and the Wilmington Journal. Perhaps Mr. Sprunt noticed the Journal particularly as being something from home. Now we know that occasionally we get papers from the North, but our doing so is casual, almost accidental, whereas Mr. S. says that so far as he could judge, our paper and other Southern papers have been received regularly, by some means or other, by sundry parties North.—We need hardly say that we send none. Our whole Northern exchange and subscription list was cut off months ago. These things must be sent by somebody here who is not trustworthy, at least so it appears to us. Who is he or she?

We hardly think, from what we could learn from Mr. Sprunt, that our Lincolnite brethren have much love for us, and somehow it seems to us that we could scarcely expect to receive any great or extra favours at their hands, should they arrive here as conquerors. If they had any difficulty in finding our office, no doubt the paper, whoever that may be, who keeps them supplied with papers, could pilot them to the place where the papers are made.—Daily Journal, 10th inst.

**SALT.**—By accident we have so far omitted notice of a specimen of salt made at the Sound by Messrs. Evans and Cassidy. It is before us as is white, as handsomely granulated, in as regular crystals as any salt we have seen. The thin, slaty looking crystallization of pure salt indicates the presence of lime and magnesia. We do not know the chemical names nor the scientific definitions, but anybody can judge of the fact. Some of these thin, slaty crystals are to be found in any salt, but there are about as few of them in the specimen before us as in any we have seen.

We see it stated that a vessel from each of the blockaded ports of Wilmington, Charleston, Savannah and Jacksonville had arrived at Nassau, New Providence. The schooner W. H. Northrop was at Havana at the last date.

## The Danville Connection

The only possible points between which the proposed Danville Connection would open up any additional line of communication, would be Richmond, Va., and Greensboro, N. C., and the only new section of country to be opened up would be a small part of the forty-five miles between the two points named. South of Greensboro there would still be but the one track to Charlotte—to Columbia—to Kingsville—to Branchville—to Augusta. There would still be but the one line. This thing would do nothing to it. It is purely a matter in which certain private interests are concerned. It could have no military value, and consequently no military necessity could be pleaded in extenuation of a departure, by the Confederate Government, from those State Rights principles in pursuance of which the independent position of the twelve Confederate States has been assumed, and in a reference to which the plainest, though not the only justification of that position can be found.

With all due respect to President Davis, we have no hesitation in saying that, in our opinion, whatever may ultimately be done about this Danville charter, the first thing in order would be for the Convention to pass such resolutions or take such other action as would leave no doubt on the mind of any one, that North Carolina felt competent to manage her own affairs and control her own system of Internal Improvements without outside instruction or influence, whether Executive, or dictated by Richmond interests or urgencies. We trust that our State Convention will know how to preserve and vindicate its own self-respect and the dignity of the State, and at the same time not violate the respect and comity due to the Confederate government or to a sister State.

What cannot serve a military end cannot constitute a military necessity. A consideration of the map will show that this project can create no new through line, and, therefore, further no great military end, and this being the case, of course the plea of military necessity falls to the ground at once. It has no basis and no justification.

Of course these remarks, directed to a consideration of the military question, and to the outside influences brought forward under the cover of that question, do not apply to citizens of our own State, whose right to agitate for this or any other similar measure on its own merits, neither we nor anybody else could controvert without justly subjecting ourselves to the imputation of arrogance or intolerance. We might, indeed, urge that this is not exactly the time, nor the present state of the country the most appropriate for bringing forward or renewing the pressure in favour of this project. We will not, however, dwell longer upon this view of the case, but, for the present, content ourselves with referring briefly to another branch of the subject, upon which either a strange misconception exists, or a false issue is sought to be made. We allude to the motives assigned to those who oppose this measure—the reasons assigned for the opposition offered.

The impression is entertained by some, and it is sought to be conveyed by others, that the sole source of opposition to this "Danville Connection" is and has been, the fear lest the profits of stockholders in the seaboard line of railroads should be lessened by the establishment of a new line, competing for business. Now, it is not to be denied that the large investments made by the State and by her citizens in existing works, investments so long unprofitable and which have but recently begun to make any return to the public-entrusted parties who engaged in them, do constitute an argument which ought not to be without its force; but this argument, powerful as it is, or ought to be, is but one, and by no means the weightiest consideration that might be urged, and indeed has been urged. The development of a North Carolina system of public works, not only affording a fair return directly, but a larger return indirectly to the State and to her citizens, lies at the bottom of the whole discussion. It underlies the whole matter.—To unite all parts of the State, to develop its resources to build up its trade, to foster its commerce through its own towns and through its own ports, has ever been regarded as a great, a paramount object, the only object in fact, for which the intervention of the State could fairly and properly be asked. If this be so, the question recurs whether, after the State and individuals have spent large sums for the promotion of this object, any temporary cause or any local pressure ought to be allowed to force through a project, the result of which would be to totally disarrange the system projected and render nugatory the efforts already made, the sacrifices already submitted to.

It matters not that the expenditures made have not always been judicious, or that in practice the system, if such it can be called, has not been the one best calculated to effect the end proposed. The question now is, shall we try, as far as possible, to remedy the defects of that system, so as to bring it into nearer conformity to its original intent, or shall we not only aggravate its defects, but actually, by tapping it in the centre, for the benefit of the markets of another State, do away with whatever of good, in a State point of view, might be expected to flow from what has already been done, and at the same time forever preclude the idea of any amendment in the future.

These considerations, briefly and inadequately stated, appear to us deserving of far more weight than the private interests of individual stockholders, however deserving, or however worthy these interests may be of kind and respectful treatment. To base the argument against this tapping project merely upon the interests of stockholders, is but to state half the case, leaving the stronger half unprotected.

**OUR TROOPS.**—Having more than once alluded to the state of things at the camps of our troops in South Carolina, especially the camp of the 8th Virginia regiment (now 18th N. C. Troops), we feel unwilling to say anything more if we can possibly avoid it. It is proper, however, that we should state, that on Saturday we were shown a private letter from an officer in one of the companies, which says that if some companies have an abundance of good water, others have not—his own company, for instance; that the commissary supplies are not what they ought to be, either in quantity or quality, and that there is very great need for improvement, but very great demand also.

**WE** had the pleasure of meeting in the Theatre on Saturday night, Wm. B. Smith, Esq., of the Tarboro Mercury, late of, or rather of the late British Regiment. We were gratified to notice that our friend Smith had the double twisted gold laced knots and figurations on his coat-epaulet, indicative of commissioned rank, showing that he had met with promotion, which was no doubt merited. He looks well. War seems to have agreed with him, as it appears to have done with very many of our volunteers. Those who escaped or surmounted the first sickness of camp, got heartier and more robust than they had ever been before.

It is stated confidently that a jealousy and bad feeling which has sprung up between Generals Pien. McCulloch and Sterling Price is the cause of appointing a new commander-in-chief in Missouri. For the first time, Missouri is now a part of the Confederacy and the military appointments there are under the control of the Confederate Government, and if Price were preferred to McCulloch or McCulloch to Price, the effect would be injurious in the extreme. But if a man is to be sent to reconcile by supererogating both the eminent men, he ought to be a man of high prestige. Is Col. Heath sufficiently known? We think not.

**WE** learn from the Charlotte Democrat that James A. Sadler, Esq., of that town, has been appointed Commissary to General Hill's brigade, at Centerville, Va. This is a most excellent appointment.

## Mr. Lincoln's Message

The first annual message of Abraham Lincoln, President of the Northern States, reached here last Saturday night in the Richmond Dispatch and the Norfolk Day Book. After the most careful reading of it we can find absolutely nothing that has not been anticipated by the telegraph, and therefore do not feel like inserting it at length to the exclusion of other matters of more interest.

The message reiterates the usual thanks to providence—thinks that not only the duty but the interests of foreign nations should urge them to avoid interference with matters on this continent, since in his opinion, their nearest way to cotton and commerce lies through the preservation rather than the destruction of the Union; as however, foreign dangers necessarily attend domestic difficulties, he recommends attention to coast and lake fortifications, so as to be prepared for any emergency.

He proposes the construction of Rail Roads connecting the "loyal" regions of Eastern Tennessee and Western North Carolina with Lexington, Ky., and other faithful parts of the Union. Wonder he don't recommend a rail road to Hatteras. He will find little encouragement among our mountaineers.

He does not state the revenue from ordinary sources, but mixes it up with loans, etc., so that it gives no information. The expenditures for the quarter ending 1st Oct., 1861, were \$98,239,733 91. The estimates for the remaining three quarters of the current year, as also for the financial year commencing July 1st, 1862, are not given, but reference is made to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

The numbers of the army are full and amount to 660,971 of all arms, which is more than has been called for. The Secretary of War recommends that this number be reduced, and bases his estimates upon a force of five hundred thousand.

Mr. Lincoln recommends a revision and codification of the laws of the United States; also a reorganization of the Supreme Court; also of military courts, with summary power to compel payment of debts due from Southern debtors to Northern creditors.

He proposes to take back the Virginia portion of the District of Columbia. Says that the sales of public lands yield virtually no revenue; that the Indians that are said to have joined the South only do so on compulsion.

He says that by virtue of an act of Congress, approved August 6, 1861, for confiscating property used for insurrectionary purposes, certain "contrabands" are thrown on the United States, and must be provided for in some way. Others in the course of the war may also be added to the number. Others may fall upon States. He therefore proposes the acquisition of territory upon which to colonize these people as well as the free colored population already in the different States.

Mr. Lincoln goes on to show, apparently to his own satisfaction, that the Federal power is progressing Southward and the Confederate receding, referring to Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri and Western Virginia; forgetting that if these States or portions of them are doubtful for the Confederacy he found them, when he came into office, in full union with the government over which he presides, and that to his own coercive policy is due the fact that Missouri is a Confederate State and that Kentucky trembles in the balance, with her best and bravest in the ranks of the Confederates. Why, North Carolina herself, as well as her gallant daughter, Tennessee, owe her unanimity in the Southern cause to the operations inaugurated to promote "union" by means of coercion.

Mr. Lincoln closes by asserting that the "insurrection" is a war upon the first principles of popular government, and the rights of the people, and goes into a scattering digression upon the rights and relations of labor and of capital, which is certainly weak enough, besides having no relation to the matter in hand.

We quote in full one or two paragraphs:—  
The Union must be preserved, and hence all indispensable means must be employed. We should not be in haste to determine that radical and extreme measures, which may reach the loyal as well as the disloyal, are indispensable.

The last ray of hope for preserving the Union peacefully, expired at the assault upon Fort Sumter, and a review of what has occurred since may not be unprofitable. What was painfully uncertain then is much better defined now, and the end and the progress of events is plainly in the right direction.

The message is weak and dilated enough in all conscience. It is possibly owing to this fact that it strikes us as being deficient in that energetic bitterness which we might have looked for. There is really no blood and thunder worth noticing, and did not appearances look different, one might think that the Washington Administration was modifying its tone, in prospect of some anticipated accommodation, overture or mediation. We do not take this view of the case. The only reliance for the South is still on herself. The attempt, now being made, to ruin Southern harbors by sinking coalships in their channels, is a piece of cold-blooded malice without parallel in modern history.

**COMPANY A, 2d REGIMENT N. C. STATE TROOPS.** This company was recruited in this town during the last spring, by Captain, now Major E. D. Hall, and the men have been in service during the whole time, and in Virginia for some months. From some cause or other, we regret to learn that they have not been the recipients of any aid from the liberal contributions of our citizens, at least since their departure. We presume it was more from diffidence in making their situation known than from any other cause. On the announcement of their yesterday, a meeting of a few gentlemen of town was held yesterday, when a liberal subscription was made and a committee appointed to solicit further aid in behalf of the company. It appears from a letter from Col. Tew that the company stands in great need of clothing and blankets. We have no doubt our citizens will respond to the call of the committee in a liberal manner. A subscription paper may be found at the Journal office, and at Dr. McLinn's Drug Store.—Contributions of underclothing, socks and blankets will also be thankfully received at the Room of Mr. E. F. Barry, Mozart Hall.

**FOR THE JOURNAL.**

Mr. Edwards.—It is not the province of the weaker sex to dabble in affairs of State, but the peculiar position of our country at this time, calls for exertion on the part of all active, self-sacrificing efforts. While our husbands, sons and brothers are bearing aloft in triumph our flag upon the battle fields, and proving to the world that our enemies, our land, are vastly inferior to us, in every respect, they still have command of a Navy, by means of which, we are liable at any moment to an attack along our widely extended sea coast. Cannot some means be devised by which we may be enabled to meet them on their own element? I think there can, and the plan that suggests itself to my mind is this: Let every woman in the State contribute one dollar each—just one, and the thing is done. We have ample means for every town and village to make collections. The amount from each one would be small, but the aggregate in my humble judgment, would be amply sufficient, for building one or more ships of war, by means of which, the flag of the Confederacy would have an equal chance upon the sea, with the practical crews of old Abe.

I simply throw out the above suggestion, Mr. Editor, the question, as it were, of an idea, if you can give it form and vitality, so that the object contemplated, can be accomplished, I shall be most obliged and most happy.

**A GADY.**

**NAVAL MOVEMENTS.**—The vessels that came in at Waukesha yesterday were schooner rigged gunboats, and not steamers, as stated on the first page. Their object appears to be merely to prow about, to spy out the points on our coast and intercept such vessels as may be passing.

The movements at the mouth of our river would indicate a beginning of the work of obstruction. A large full-rigged brig was brought in yesterday under full sail and ran upon the beach at Tybee. Some suppose she was in a leaky condition and run aground to save her, while the most probable presumption is that she is the beginning of a line of obstructions across the channel. That a harbor work for a powerful nation to be engaged in.—Savannah News, 6th.

## BY TELEGRAPH.

FOR THE JOURNAL.

**BRIMMON, VA., Dec. 7th, 1861.**  
A duel was fought near here this morning between two professional gentlemen, Washington Wortham, formerly of an act following him down to the hospitals for the sick and wounded soldiers, at such rates and numbers as prescribed by the Secretary of War.

**BRIMMON, VA., Dec. 8th, 1861.**  
Dates from New York on the 4th inst. state that the Steamer Northern Light, from Aspinwall, had arrived with nearly nine hundred thousand dollars in treasure.

**BRIMMON, VA., Dec. 8th, 1861.**  
The Bolivar news says that the Commander-General at Lopez had ordered the execution of two hundred persons engaged in the recent revolutionary movements. These were executed by President Camacho, General Hernandez, a number of priests, and four Colonels.

**BRIMMON, VA., Dec. 8th, 1861.**  
Advices from St. Thomas state that the Captain of the Steamer Jett. Davis was on board the Steamer Trent when Mason and Sillid were arrested.

**BRIMMON, VA., Dec. 8th, 1861.**  
Advices from Baltimore, Dec. 6th, state that Gov. Hicks' message recommending the payment of the Federal war tax by Maryland, and the furnishing of her quota of volunteers, and equipping them. He urges the passage of a law punishing all those who have joined the Confederates or aided them.

**BRIMMON, VA., Dec. 8th, 1861.**  
Advices from Washington City, Dec. 4th, state that Mr. Lincoln has recommended the appointment of a committee to revise and codify the laws of the country. The resolution proposes that Messrs. Fillmore, Pierce, Taylor, Everett, Dallas, Irving, Sumner, Beverly Johnson, Crittenden, and Richard Henry Stoddard, be appointed Commissioners on the part of Congress to confer with the like number of Commissioners from the Confederate States for the purpose of revising and codifying the laws of the Constitution, and that they report to Congress. The last resolution says that upon the appointment of the Commissioners, the President is authorized to suspend, without notice, all hostilities cease, and not be resumed unless the Commission are unable to agree.

**BRIMMON, VA., Dec. 8th, 1861.**  
The resolution was laid over informally. Mr. Lincoln has adopted, that Mr. Breckinridge, the traitor, be expelled from the Senate. In the House Mr. Cox, of Ohio, offered a resolution that the President be impeached for the exchange of prisoners during the present war.

**BRIMMON, VA., Dec. 8th, 1861.**  
Dates from Alexander of the 3d have been received here. On Sunday the 2d inst. the ship Harriet, of the Union, was taken to the Washington Hospital. She was by canal from James town; two died between the canal and the Hospital.

**BRIMMON, VA., Dec. 8th, 1861.**  
The Washington Star of the 4th says that doubt exists whether the Confederates will be able to hold the position of the Washington Hospital. It is reported that the Confederates have taken over five thousand sick and wounded and cannot take more.

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PROMOTION.—We are pleased to learn that Captain G. H. Hill, of the Confederate Army, has been promoted to the rank of Major, and assigned to the command of a battalion of five companies of the 17th Regiment N. C. Troops, now at Roanoke Island. The other companies of this regiment were captured at the surrender of Fort Hatteras.

fer to our authority, that the steamer Trent does not go through to England, but connects at one of the others, the West India Islands, St. Thomas, perhaps, with a vessel that does. The mails and news of the occurrence on board the Trent while running down the Old Bahama Channel on her way from Havana to St. Thomas, the principal station of the steamers from Southampton,

will welcome him only with devastation and ruin. Our people are in earnest—men, women and children—and their sacrifices will ascend as a sacred holocaust to God, crying aloud for vengeance against the fiends in human shape, who are disgracing humanity, trampling down civilization, and would blot out Christianity.

*Charleston Courier.*

McCulloch is encamped at Springfield with a force of four thousand, and Gen. Rains left Sarcoxie to join McCulloch at the 25th, with a force of seven thousand.

ers, and by all others who have had an opportunity of examining the defences, of the ability of our troops to resist any attack.

be place fixed for the meeting of next Conference was  
eight. There was no other place in nomination.  
The minutes of the afternoon session were read and ap-  
proved, and on motion, the Conference adjourned. T.